



Summary

India's population has been increasing steadily since 1921. The year 1921 is known as "the big divide" because the absolute number added to the population during each decade has been on the increase since then. While the global population has increased 3 times, India has increased its population 5 times during the last century. Recognizing that key factors in fertility decline include change in government attitudes towards growth, the spread of education, increased availability of contraception and the extension of services offered through family planning program as well as the marked changes in the marriage patterns, India launched the Family Planning Programme in 1952. The role of Family Planning is also being recognized by national policies and the country's five years' plan. Thus as per the current 12th Five Year Plan and National Population Policy (NPP) 2000, the program is currently being repositioned to not only achieve population stabilization but also to promote reproductive health and reduce maternal, infant & child mortality and morbidity.